

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 4, 1899, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B.

Thursday, May 4, 1899. Dear Mabel:

Just arrived tired out. Left my father and Mrs. Bell at the Grand Narrows Hotel as storm prevented steamboat from coming to our side of bay.

Snow-storm all the way from Truro. Winter has returned for a short visit. Mr. McInnis remained at Narrows to bring them on tomorrow — and I came on alone. Landed at Baddeck and Jim Dunlap drove me down to Mrs. Kennan's wharf. Called on Mrs. Kennan — found her ill with nurse in attendance — has been so nearly a week. Glad to see me. I find a beautiful hyacinth on my table with enclosed note from poor Mr. Kennan which speaks for itself.

Douglas and Lucien met the steamer at the wharf — both looking well but Lucien taller than Douglas — at least so it seemed to me. They report George — as going to school again though nothing was the matter with his hand. I find that accident was more serious than Mr. McCurdy knew when I left Washington. Both fingers had to be amputated as far as the first joint. The bones had been out through and could not be united — and so fingers were amputated up to the joint under chloroform. From all I hear he seems to be all right now.

Beinn Bhreagh illuminated and beautiful as usual. Mr. Atwater here to greet us. Just off to bed, tired out 2 and headachy. Much love — wish you were here — though I rather think you would not care for the snow. Love to Elsie and Marian. Want to hear about Marian's lecture on wireless telegraphy.

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Your own, Alec.